

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109127
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 HA-05
AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01
SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 IO-14 ACDA-12 EB-08
/129 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:JACOON:DAM
APPROVED BY NEA:AGLASPIE
-----098086 282131Z /17

O 282058Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 109127

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, AF

SUBJECT: KABUL COUP - CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE

FYI THE FOLLOWING IS THE CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE
AFGHAN SITUATION PREPARED FOR THE APRIL 28 NOON PRESS
BRIEFING. NO QUESTIONS WERE, IN FACT, ASKED.

Q: WHAT IS OUR LATEST INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN
AFGHANISTAN?

A: THE SITUATION REMAINS UNCLEAR. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS
THAT THE FIGHTING SEEMS TO HAVE DIED DOWN BUT THERE IS
STILL SOME FIRING IN KABUL. WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION
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ON WHAT IS HAPPENING OUTSIDE OF KABUL. THE AFGHAN RADIO
HAS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD HAS BEEN KILLED BUT WE
HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS. THE AIRPORT IS
CLOSED AS ARE ALL LAND BORDERS.

Q: WHAT IS THE US POSITION ON THE SITUATION?

A: AS WE HAVE SAID THE SITUATION REMAINS UNCLEAR. WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. WE RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. OF COURSE, WE EXPECT ANY GOVERN-

MENT TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS AND TO MEET THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE INDICATIONS THAT THE REBELS HAVE EFFECTIVELY TAKEN OVER KABUL AND WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY?

A: AS WE SAID BEFORE, THE SITUATION REMAINS MURKY. MOVEMENT IN KABUL IS RESTRICTED AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THE SITUATION ACTUALLY IS. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SITUATION PERMITS, OUR EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS IN KABUL, AND SO FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN NO AMERICAN CASUALTIES.

Q: ARE WE PLANNING TO EVACUATE AMERICANS?

A: IT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR THAT AN EVACUATION WILL BE NECESSARY, BUT WE ARE PREPARED, ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.

WE HAVE ISSUED A TRAVEL ADVISORY TO ALL OUR DIPLOMATIC UNCLASSIFIED

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AND CONSULAR POSTS RECOMMENDING STRONGLY AGAINST AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL TRAVEL TO AFGHANISTAN AT THIS TIME. SUCH TRAVEL ADVISORIES ARE NORMAL PRECAUTIONS IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.

Q: IS THE ORIENTATION OF THE REBEL LEADERS ANY CLEARER NOW?

A: AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE REBEL LEADERSHIP.

ACCORDING TO THEIR RADIO BROADCASTS THEY SUPPORT A DEMOCRATIC, ISLAMIC, PROGRESSIVE, NON-ALIGNED POLICY. I WOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAVE NOTHING EXCEPT THE RADIO REPORTS.

THEY HAVE SAID THEY ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SAFETY OF FOREIGNERS.

Q: IS THERE ANY SOVIET INVOLVEMENT?

A: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THIS TIME INDICATING

SOVIET INVOLVEMENT.

Q: HAVE WE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT ARE THE REACTIONS OF AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBORS
PARTICULARLY PAKISTAN AND IRAN?

A: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM ON THE SITUATION,
BUT I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THESE CONTACTS. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:JACOON

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:JACOON

-----119079 300356Z /61

R 292237Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3417

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0209

UNCLAS STATE 109127

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 109127 SENT ACTION KABUL INFO ISLAMABAD,
TEHRAN, MOSCOW 28 APR 78

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 109127

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SOPN, AF, US
To: KABUL
Type: TE
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